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Birmingham, Alabama

Muscle Shoals Baptist Association

v. 1.	1850	v. 11.	1888
v. 2.	1854	v. 12.	1891
v. 3.	1855	v. 13.	1892
v. 4.	1858	v. 14.	1893
v. 5.	1859	v. 15.	1895
v. 6.	1861	v. 16.	1896
v. 7.	1867	v. 17.	1897
v. 8.	1871	v. 18.	1898
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→MINUTES.≔

The delegates composing the Sixty Eighth Annual Session of the Muscle Shoals Association of Baptists, convened with the Town Creek Baptist Church, Lawrence County, Alabama, on Friday, the 30th day of September, 1887, at 11 a. m. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Josephus Shackelford, from the parables of the talents and ten pounds found in Matthew 25th chapter, 14-30 verses, and Luke 19th chapter, 12-26 verses. After the sermon, there was a recess of one hour and a quarter.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the former Moderator, Elder J. Gunn. Elder Jos. Shackelford, the former Clerk, took his place at the Clerk's table. The Association was opened by singing, reading of the scriptures and prayer by Rev. J. M. Thomas. An address of welcome was made by Rev. R. T. Wear, Pastor of Town Creek church, which was responded to by the Moderator. Bros. C. G. Lynch, John Speer, and John E. Weaver were appointed reading clerks. The following churches were represented by letter and delegates:

nd delegates:

Russelville—Wm East, Peter Clay, John Byars,
Mt Plessant—A H Stanley, Henry Gargis, R R Maye,
Okolona—W B Braswell.
Bethany—Jackson Patterson,
Town Creek—R T Wear, James S Gibson, George W Jackson.
Salem—J M Roberts, A Heffin, J P Pearson.
Moulton—Mat Lyon, O D Gibson, C G Lynch,
Harmony—J S Howell, W S Howell.
Mission Grove—J W Yates.
Gum Spring (L)—W H Muston.
Zion (L)—Letter, no delegates.
Enon—W M Duke, J T W allace, R L Key,
Hillsboro—S J Porter, J W Wallace.
Decatur—J Gunn, Joe Shackelford.
Pleasant Hill—John Speer, J S Hale, W P Hill.

Macedonia (M)—G E Lane.
Tuscumbia—D H Walker, John F Belue.
Hopewell—W F Orr, J A Henry, J J Sandlin.
Lebanon—J H Thompson, W H Jenkings, H E Woods.
Mt Pisgah—W B Carter, H A McClellan, G H Hughes.
Bethe! (M)—J C Hyrtselle, J O Love, D Aiken, W A Belue.
Mt Zion (M)—C Thompson.
Shoal Creek—E T Spain, J H Clemmons, F N Lynch.
Blue Spring—J E Weaver, R M McClure.
Hartselle—J C Orr.
Danville—J G Orr.
Cherry Ilill—Wesley Horton.
New Hope—H J Crow.

After the enrollment of the names of the delegates, the Association proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Elder Jackson Gunn, Moderator, and Elder Josephus Shackelford, Clerk. The Moderator returned his thanks to the brethren, for their renewed confidence, and then announced that the Association was ready for business.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

On motion of Bro. W. B. Carter, the order of business as printed in the minutes of last year, was adopted as the order of business for this session.

PETITIONARY LETTERS.

Petitionary letters were called for, when letters were received from the following churches, and on motion, the churches were received into our union, and the names of the delegates enrolled:

Falkvile—J M MeDaniel, F L Simpson.
Mt Stanley—G W Dodson.
Somerville—T J Weaver.
Mt Hope—W R Roberts, Jas F Harville, A C Messer.
Tharps Spring—Mike Taylor, H C Counts, T J Byars.
Sheffield—Letter; no delegate.

The right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates by the Moderator.

A letter was presented from a body, calling itself the Antioch Baptist Church, asking for membership in this Association; on account of the fact stated in the letter, that a part of the members of this body had been excluded from the Mt. Pisgah Church, which is a constituent member of this Asso-

ciation; the letter, on motion of Bro. Joseph Shackelford, was referred to a select committee of seven, who should report at this session as to the action which should be taken by the Association, concerning the petition.

CORRESPONDENTS.

On a call for corresponding messengers from sister associations, the following brethren were received:

Mt. Carmel Association-John White.

Cullman Association-W. A. Taylor, R. J. Fuller.

Mulberry Association-J. M. Thomas.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats.

The Moderator appointed the following committee:

Devotional Exercises—J. C. Orr, W. M. East, and the paster and deacons of Town Creek Church.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 9 a.m. Saturday. Prayer by the Moderator.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, Oct. 1st, 1887.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator at 9 a. m. Prayer by Bro. M. Finney. The minutes of Friday were read and approved.

The Moderator announced the following committee on the petitionary letter of the body calling itself Antioch Baptist Church: M. Finney, O. D. Gibson, Wm. East, W. F. Orr, R. T. Wear, S. J. Porter, John E. Weaver.

The Moderator also announced the following committees to report at this session:

Finance—J. S. Gibson, R. M. McClure, G. H. Hughes.

Deceased Ministers—R. T. Wear, A. H. Stanley, Henry Gargis.

Documents-H. J. Halbrooks, T. J. Weaver, J. T. Wallace.

State of Religion—W. P. Hill, J. Speer, J. R. Nesmith. Correspondents were appointed to the following bodies:

North Liberty Association—H. J. Halbrooks, J. I. Stock-

Bear Creek.—M. Finney, J. R. Nesmith, J. W. Horton. Mt. Carmel.—Jos. Shackelford, W. B. Carter, J. E. Weaver. Sulphur Springs.—C. A. Owen, f. J. Weaver, J. M. Roberts.

Cullman—J. Gunn, T. J. Weaver, C. A. Owen, W. B. Carter, Jos. Shackelford.

Canaan—Jos. Shackelford, W. B. Carter, J. Gunn, M. Finney.

Alabama Baptist State Convention—Jos. Shackelford, C. A. Owen, T. J. Weaver, J. C. Orr, J. M. Roberts, Peter Clay, W. B. Carter, J. G. Orr, R. M. McClure, H. J. Halbrooks and J. Gunn.

BAPTIST MALE AND FEMALE INSTITUTE AT MOULTON.

The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Male and Female Institute at Moulton, was called for and read by Brother Jas. S. Gibson, as follows: We the Trustees of the Baptist Male and Female Institute, would respectfully represent to your body, that we have secured the services of Prof. G. S. Howerton, late of the Iuka Normal School, as Frincipal of our school. He has a fine school of about seventy pupils. He is giving satisfaction to the patrons, and we recommend this school to the Association, as being in every way worthy of its support. The morals of your children as well as their mental advancement, will be well looked after. As the school is worthy of your support, we hope the Association will patronize it more extensively in the future than in the past. Art and music are taught in the school.

Respectfully submitted, H. B. IRWIN, President

J. S. GIBSON, Secretary.

On motion, the Report was received and ordered to bespread on the minutes.

EDUCATION.

The Report on Education was called for, and read by the Chairman, Jos-Shackelford. This report and the general subject of education was discussed by Brethren Howerton, C. G. Lynch, J. White and Jos. Shackelford, and then adopted as follows: Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Education beg leave to report as follows: We are glad to know that the subject of education is receiving more attention from Baptists than ever before in our history. Our people, generally, are becoming more interested in the education of their children, and feel more and more the necessity of having an educated ministry. Our Institutions of learning will compare favorably with the best in the land, whether State or denominational schools. It is not necessary in this report to speak of the importance of educating our children. This has been placed before our people again and again, and we are assured that they, generally, appreciate its importance, and value. We have common and high schools and colleges placed within easy reach of all, and none need go without an education, for the want of schools. To our young brethren, who feel called of God to

preach the gospel and wish to prepare themselves for this great work, we commend Howard College, located at East Lake, near Birmingham, and the Southern Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., and the High Schools within our own Association.

If they are not prepared to enter college, they can prepare themselves at the Male and Female, Institute at Moulton, now under the charge of Prof. G. T. Howerton, assisted by our esteemed Brother Prof. C. G. Lynch.

This is a good school, worthy of patronage. All ministerial students are received free of charge. These gentlemen are experienced and efficient teachers. Howard Coilege, also, opens wide its doors to all ministerial students. We have now in that Institution a chair of Theology, and its Prof. Rev. D. I. Purser, will pay special attention to ministerial students. The Seminary at Louisville, is one of the best, if not the best Theological Institutions in the United States. Hose ministerial students who are prepared to do so, would do well to take a partial, if not a full course in the Seminary. We also call the attention of our people, who have daughters to educate, to the Judson Female Institute at Marion, Ala. This is a school of the highest order, and deserves the patronage of the Baptist of the State. The Central Female College at Tucaloosa, is another good Baptist school.

The Central Female College at Tuscaloosa, is another good Baptist school.

We would not close this report, without again calling the attention of the Baptists of the Muscle Slouels Association to their own school at Moulton. This is our school, belonging to our Association. It proposes to give instruction equal to any school of the same grade. Baptists should patronize it for it is worthy of patronage, and because they ought to sustain their own schools, when they offer the same advantages as others. If we do not sustain it, we cannot expect those not Baptist to do so.

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Respectfully submitted,
Jos. Shackelford.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The Report of the Executive Board was read by Brother C. G. Lynch and after remarks by Brother O. D. Gibson, was adopted as follows: The Executive Board to the Muscle Shoals Association; dear Brethren, we found at our first meeting after the last Association, after setting aside the amounts for certain purposes as per order of Association, what only \$240 left for Associational missions, we divided this equally amongst districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3. In District number 1, Brother Speer was placed on a salary of, \$10 per month for eight months. He was to begin on the 15th of October, and preach on Saturdays, and Sundays. He was requested to try to get his congregation to pay him enough to put in the other four months of the year. District number 2 was given to Brother Lyon, for one-fourth of his time for \$80. District number 3, was given to Brother T. J. Weaver, for three-fourths of his time. He was instructed to begin October 15th and continue to January 1st, 1887. Then to suspend his work till May, 1st, '87. In obedience to the instructions of the last Association, the Executive Board has held or endeavored to hold four meetings in different parts of the Association. The first at Moulton, was well attended. The second at Macedonia, in Franklin county was attended by three members of the Board. The third was attended by two members, and the fourth at Bethel in Lawrence was attended by two members, and the fourth at Bethel to transact business, there being no quorum only at Moulton, yet we are constrained to believe, that much good has been done by these meetings.

-

C. G. LYNCH, Secretary.

O. D. GIBSON, President.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The report of Brother T. W. Lynch, Treasurer of the Association was read by the Clerk and ordered to be spread upon the minutes as follows:

T. W. LYNCH, Treasurer,

er,					
In	account	with	Muscle	Shoals	Association.

1886.	Dr.		
Oct. 4. Nov. 26. Dec. 25.	To amount on hand To cash from J. S. Hale, Finance Committee To cash from Hartsell church. To cash from Mrs. Sybert	\$18 416 10	
1887. Ap'l 21. June 20. Se't. 20. Se't. 24. Se't. 24.	To cash from Russelville church, by Mrs. Kirk	5 10 20	00 00 00 03 00
		\$559	75
1886	Cr.		
Oct. 4. Oct. 4. Oct. 4. 1887.			
Ap'l 20.	By cash paid Mat Lyon 5 00		100
June 25.	Di cuon puid sour Ej control de c		
Se't. 20.			
Se't. 29.	By cash paid Mat Lyon 78 55—558 75 Respectfully submitted,	0011701	-
	T. W. Lynch, Tre	asure	

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

On motion, the reports of the various committees on missions were read, and the whole subject of missions was considered under the same order of business. The Report on Associational Missions was read by Brother C. G. Lynch. That on Foreign Missions by Brother Mat Lyon, and the Report on State Missions was read by Brother R. T. Wear. The missionaries also made their reports, and the subject of missions was then discussed by Brothers J. M. Roberts and Jos. Shackelford. Pending the discussion on motion, the Association adjourned for 1½ hours. Prayer by the Mederator.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Brother W. T. Cobbs. The subject of Mission was again taken up, and discussed by Bros. A. J. Harris, Jas. S. Gibson, J. M. Thomas, and the Moderator, who called for contributions and pledges, when the following amounts were collected and pledged by churches and individuals.

PLEDGES FOR MISSIONS. FROM CHURCHES.

	FROM CHURCHES.		
	Tuscumbia	\$ 15	00
	Russelville	100	00
	Cherry Hill	10	00
	Bethel (L)	10	00
	Mt. Pleasant	20	00
	Antioch		00
	Okalona		00
	Bethany		00
	Town Creek		00
	Mission Grove		00
	Salem		00
	Moulton		00
	Harmany		00
	Harmony		
	New Hope, Foreign Missions		00
	Hillsboro		50
	Gum Springs (L)		00
	Enon		00
	Pleasant Hill	20	
	Decatur	50	
	Hopewell	25	00
	Danville, \$1.00 per member	32	00
	Hartsell, \$1,00 per member	38	00
	Lebanon	10	00
	Mt. Pisgab, cash paid Finance Commmittee	41	
	Bethel (M)		00
	Bethel (M)		00
	Shoal Creek		00
	Blue Springe	10	
	Somerville.	10	
	Falkville	10	
	Shamula	25	
	Sheffield.		
	Mt. Stanley		00
	Tharp Springs		00
	Mt. Hope.	25	
	Rocky Creek		00
	Moulton S. S. cash for Foreign Missions H M.	5	00
-		686	55
ED(GES FROM INDIVIDUALS AND CASH.		
	Mrs. S. M. Steenson, paid	\$ 1	
	A. H. Stanley	10	
	Mrs. E. M. Sandlin		00
	Mrs. E. A. Shoemaker	. 1	00
	Mrs. E. G. Weems, paid		00
	M. C. Masterson, paid	1	50
	M. A. Carter	1	00
	T. N. Iones	5	00
	Mrs. O. B. Henly, paid	1	00
	Mrs. Ella Stanley, paid F. M	1	00
	Cash collections		70
			_
		\$ 16	20
		686	
		550	
	Pledges and cash from churches and S. S	3702	70

The reports were then adopted as follows:

REPORT ON / SSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

are respectfully submitted.

We, your committee on A sociational Missions, beg leave to make this report to your body. There s an increasing demand for mission work in our territory. This is show by the rapid growth of population in towns on our railroads, and as a realt, an increase of population in some country neighborhoods. Along wit! all these additions to the numbers, intelligence, capital, and irrepressible act ity of our population, there is the usual average attendance of worldlines and wickedness; and these elements are also, as everywhere else, active for evil, neither more nor less, we suppose, than may be looked for among any other enterprising people. A great and growing demand is thus thrust upon us, as stewards of the manifold grace of God, to put into this inviting field a sufficient number of the most intelligent, cultivated, experienced, influential, zealous and consecrated missionaries of the Cross of Christ, and to pay them a reasonable amount for their

labor. We need men who are able, not only to meet the open opposition to the Gospel, but so cessfully to expose and overcome all the false doctrine with which our land s flooded, and no less are such men needed to strengthen our churches, a... build up the members thereof in the most holy faith. While many good and liberal christian people have recently been added to our population, ye hey can meet but a small portion of the demands upon all the followers of Christ within our limits, and we regret to have to record, that we as a sody of christians, do not seem to have appreciated our responsibility, or the honor, He would confer upon us in the field of great usefulness. With ... minished contributions, for Associational Missians sions, and a still smaller an unt of pledges for the year just closing, our Executive Board could not p ovide for quite half as much work as hereto-We submit the questic 1, whether this state of things does not call for the most serious and prayerf I consideration on the part of this Association. The best mode of carrying or our mission work, is worthy of our special at-

tention. It may be considered lets. Whether this work mall be prosecuted exclusively away from churches, and in the most described by the Association.

2nd. Or whether to expens our efforts on weak churches, weak in christian work, though some are 'arge in membership; nine of which contributed only \$31.30 for associational nissions. So the minutes say. This amount is from 549 church members and is less than six cents per member for this object; and but two of then, contributed for any other object but minutes. There are twelve other chu: "hes, comprising 684 members, who gave last year not one cent for associ: itonal missions, though one paid \$4.06 for other

objects, and four churches p id nothing, even for minutes.
3rd. Or shall the few ch. ches that give, have the amount spent on them to build them up to greater refulness? Or whether it would be better to change the location of the Executive Board from Moulton, where it has been so long, to some other place, where more zealous members of it and for it might be found. Or "hether it would not be best to employ ministers whose time is not fully imployed, to serve some of these weak churches? Or would it be best to do av ay with the pledge system as a thing of the past, and stop the missionary work for one year, and ask the delegates to return to their churches, and urge them to adopt the scriptural plan of raising money, by meeting every Sunday to worship God, and to lay by in store for Him, as He has prospered them by giving one tenth or some other part to Him. Dear brethren, that mese suggestions may be beneficial to you, they C G LYNCH,

Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The great commission, from which every true minister of Christ derives his authority to preach, is an express command to engage for life in the work of Foreign Missions. Even Peter. who, for a time, was sent specially, to preach to his own people, was expressly selected by the Holy Spirit, (Acts 10; 19.) to announce the blessing of the gospel to the Gentiles. Home Missions in any given locality, could have no existence, if Foreign Missions had not first planted the gospel there. Every Baptist caurch in this country may trace its origin through past generations to foreign mission work. Every true church of Christ owes its existence to the life giving principle of foreign missions. And through that spiritual law of its very nature, spontaneously radiates light in every direction to regions beyond. Thus did the church at Antioch, in Syria, by command of the Holy Spirit, send forth Barnabas and Saul to carry the gospel to other heathen nations; and thus has many a modern church of Christ in heathen lands, furnished money and sent missionaries to other benighted regions of heathendom. Thus a church of Christ in any age, in any land, under any circumstances, was, and if still existing is, in its very nature, a foreign missionary church, and every true christian member thereof a foreign missionary christian. All that such a church member lacks in this regard, is owing to his want of information or of consecration to the service of Christ or of both. But there are antimission Baptists, and they have existed in every age of the gospel. They have a very ancient, even a scriptural, if not a commemnable record.

The Apostle John, in his 3d epistle, characterizes one of them by the name of Diotrephes, who refused to receive the missionaries sent by the apostles, prating maliciously against John and his brethren, and turning out of the church those who would receive them. The church that fails too draw its missionary life from Christ is like a walking skeleton, and soon ceases to live. But a missionary church and missionary church members are not such as merely acknowledge the correctness of the missionary principle, or even believe in their own personal obligation to sustain missions, but they are eich as honestly, according to their ability, practice what they profess. "O missionary baptist are practically anti-missionary baptist!

The history of modern baptist missions, dating specially from the times of Carey, about one hundred years ago, soon followed by Judson, depicts a scene of wonderful progress, and of self-sacrificing devotion to our heavenly Master. But while India and Burmah were blessed with gospel truth. China and Africa and regions under the dark and cruel rule of Romanisin in Europe and America were scarcely thought of for missionary enterprise. But our hearts swell with gratitude at the cheering news we now have from over five great foreign missionary fields, comprising the populations of probably more than two-thirds of the whole human race.

In the empire of Brazil, in South America, our southern board has three recently established missions with 14 missionaries, native and foreign; baptisms, 30; members. 175. This young mission has had great success, and is now subjected to severe persecutions, an unfailing harbinger of still more glorious triumphs. The progress of our Mexican mission has been truly wonderful, and their territory now extends through four Mexican states, from Texas to the Pacific ocean. Bro. Powell speaks of organizing ten new churches, which will make eighteen, while they have but four ordained ministers. The baptisms reach 100, making their membership .350, while 150 were awaiting baptism. They have 100 pupils, and have contributed \$923 to the good work.

The Italian mission has 15 missionaries, native and foreign; baptisms 26, making 306 members. It is constantly growing. In China, with a population of 400,000,000, we have only 54 native and

foreign missionaries; baptisms, 46; members, 677; pupils, 203; contribu-tions, \$699.61, besides \$ 000 by a converted native, Wong Yeur San, who built a chapel and preactes in it three times a week. The government has made christian missions are in the whole empire, and baptist, who alone

carry a perfectly pure, spel, ought to enter in by hundreds.

In the wast and yet lit le known continent of Africa, we have but 16 missionaries, native and for ign; baptized, 26; member, 138; 32 having died; pupils 284. Total: In all our missions we have 116 missionaries, native and foreign; the baptisms are 228; church members, 1551; churches and stations, 65; schools, 25; pupils, 587; contributions in the mission fields, \$3012.61.

To our brethren of the Muscle Shoals Missionary Baptist Asseciation we would say, that the fields are white unto the harvest on every hand, that laborers and preachers are needed to carry the gospel to a thousand million perishing human beings; and how can they go except they be sent? and how can they be sent unless you contribute largely of your money to pay their travelling expenses, and support them in their fields of labor; Let us gather more and more light for ourselves on this great subject of christian duty, by more closely and prayerfully studying the word of God, and by habitually reading our own religious newspapers, and keeping ourselves informed in the current of missionary news, and on their instructive and practical comment on this all-important work for Christ. The special vehicle for such enlightenment is ur official Foreign Mission Journal of Richmond, Va., in which we may obtain fresh from the wide field of gospel work, the soul inspiring letters of devoted missionaries, with deeply interesting facts. and knowledge of race, and countries, together with matured thoughts of our best informed bretaren in this line of study, and withal a minute detail of every cent of money received from every state, every Association, every church, and every man, woman and child that wish their contributions noticed, as well as of every cent expended in the work. Let twenty-five members of a church pay twenty cents apiece and have a package of twenty-five papers sent monthly to one person, and by him distributed to all. Every one of us is a steward of the manifold grace of God. It is required in stewards that a man be found farthful, and every one of us must hereafter account for himself and his faithfulness to god.

MAT LYON, J. E. WEAVER.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The State Mission Work is indeed highly important, and becomes more so with each succeeding year. The resources of wealth that are being discovered and opened up, are attracting people from every direction to our own loved state. As the multitudes pour in upon us, our responsibilities increase, and we should put forth every effort to meet these responsibilities, as valiant soldiers of Christ. We gather from the report of the State Board, that with a membership of 90,000. 1,400 churches and near 800 ordained ministers, we are giving only \$7,387.33 to state missions.

For the past year, there have been 47 missionaries employed for all or a part of their time, and nine colporteurs. Our noble brethren who constitute the State Board, realize the importance of extending the work, but cannot the State Board, realize the importance of executing the work out cannot for the want of funds. Will not the 3908 Baptists of the Muscle Shoals Association, come up with their contributions until the \$12,000 asked for shall be given, and the desires of the Board to aid weak churches and supply places of destitution with a living ministry, be fully carried out. Oh, that the light of God's truth may shine into the heart of every individual members. ber of the churches of this Association, until they shall realize that it is their

duty to give of their means for the spread of the gospel, that it may be to others as it has been to us, the power of God unto Salvation

RT WEAR, W B CARTER. Committee.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARIES.

Report of Mat Lyon to the Muscle Shoals Association, of missionary ser-

Report of man Lyon to the state of the state of the year ending 30th September 1887.

I was employed to labor in the western part of this Association, for one in the state of I was employed to labor in the western part of time Association, for one fourth of my time except three months in the winter. I have labored eighty-six days; traveled 956 miles, preached forty sermons, delivered one address on baptism, made twenty-four visits to my preaching stations, nine visits to other churches, 163 visits to families, sold thirteen colportage books, attended three protracted meetings and two more in part, and procure twenty four subscribers to the Foreign Mission Journal. I have received eighty dollars in full payment for my services since last Association, and I have also received twenty-eight dollars and eighty cents balance in full for my services for last year. Fraternally, MAT LYON.

REPORT OF JOHN SPEER.

To the Muscle Shoals Association. I was employed by your board for eight months at a salary of \$80. I was to give only one half of my Saturday and Sunday time. I do not report in this any of my work except my mission work. Work as follows. I have traveled about 887 miles; have preached fifty-four sermons; have delivered twenty-two exhortations; have held two involved meetings, at mission stations; witnessed a number of conversions; assisted in the Organization of two churches. I have secured several subscribers for the Alabama Baptist and the Foreign Mission Journal. I have received \$12.00 on my salary. Humbly submitted.

I SPEER.

REPORT OF J. T. WEAVER.

Report of J. T. Weaver, missionary of Third District, of Muscle Shoals Association.

I was employed by the Board Oct. 15th, 1886; labored until January, 1st, 1887; suspended until May, 4st; then resumed work until Oct, 1st, 1887, and gave three-fourths of this time to the mission work. I devoted my work mostly to Somerville, Falkville and Poteet's school house; organized a church at Somerville, and one at Falkville; I have attended many very precious meetings in which there have been ninety-five conversions, and ninety additions to the churches.

400 00 Received as supplement to my salary.... Raised in missions 15 00 Respectfully submitted, T. J. WEAVER, Missionary.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

Two places were in nomination for the next meeting of the Association, Mt. Pisgah church and Russelville. Association voted to meet with the Russelville church, on

Friday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1888.

A Committee was appointed to nominate a preacher to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association and an alternate.

The Committee, recommended that Brother J. Gunn, preach the Introductory and Brother John E. Weaver, alternate. The recommendation was adopted.

The select committee to report on the reception of the body calling itself, the Antioch church, reported, which report was adopted as follows:

We your Committee to whom was referred the petitionary letter of Antioch church, report unfavorable as to its reception, and suggest that the letter be tabled.

Respectfully submitted,
M. FINNEY, Ch'n.

The Committee on devotional exercises reported as follows:

Rev. W. T. Cobbs, preach to-night at Prarie School House. Sunday at 9 A. M. Sunday School mass meeting. Addresses by A. J. Harris and J. M. Thomas. Sunday at 11 A. M. preaching by Rev. J. Gunn. Sunday at 2 P. M. preaching by Rev. Jos. Shackelford.

Association adjourned until Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by the Moderator.

SUNDAY-Oct. 2nd. 1887.

The Sunday School mass meeting convened at the appointed hour, and was addressed by Bro. A. J. Harris, of Nashville, and Brother J. M. Thomas, both made interesting speeches, which were appreciated by the large audience. The brethren appointed to preach filled their appointments and we trust good was accomplished by the preached word.

MONDAY-Oct. 3rd., 1887.

FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Elder J. R. NeSmith, led the religious exercises at the commencement of the service, after which the Moderator called the Association to order.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Report on Sunday Schools having been read on Sunday, in the mass meeting, was adopted as follows: We your Committee on Sabbath

Schools, submit the following as our report. We feel encouraged in this grand work. Judging from the letters, there has been more interests manifested in Sunday School work, this year, in the Muscle Shoals Association than in the past year. Quite a number of the churches report lively Sunday Schools. This is as it should be. It is a work in which all may engage, and we are glad to know that the churches are coming to the front, on this question. The church that has a live working Sunday School has a Bible reading people, and if our people, can be induced to study God's word, we may hope for a God serving people. Upon the other hand the church that has no Sunday School, invariably has a careless people in regard to the word of God. The Paalmistsays, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." If we fail to study the word of God, we fail to receive the light that springs up therefrom. We know of no place that offers more inducements for the acquisition of Bible knowledge than the Sunday School. Still we regret to know that a large per cent of our church members manifest no interest in this grand cause. We deem it prudent to urge the use of nothing but Baptist literature in our Sunday Schools. We would recommend that our pastors and delegates urge upon our churches, the importance of having a Sunday School in every Baptist church. church.

Respectfully submitted. W. T. COBBS, WM. EAST. Committee.

STATE OF RELIGION.

The Report of the Committee on State of Religion, was read by Brother W. P: Hill, and was adopted as follows: The Committee on State of Religion beg leave to make the following report. The information brought us through the letters from the churches, shows us that several churches us through the letters from the churches, shows us that several churches within our bounds are advancing in the work of the Lord, while others we regret to say are in a lukewarm condition. Our religious state is on the decrease in some parts of the Association, are being earnestly advocated, and the faith once delivered to the saints, is being received by many. We thank God for the privilege of making this report We recommend to all the churches, consecration to Christ, that they may all stand firm in the faith, that giveth them the victory over the world

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. Hill, Ch'n.

W. P. HILL, Ch'n.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The Report of the Board of Ministerial Education, and the Treasurers Report were read by Brother Jos. Shackelford, and discussed by Brothers W. B. Carter, Jos. Shackelford and C. G. Lynch. Brother Lynch called for contributions add pledges for Ministerial Education, when the following were received.

CASH AND PLEDGES FOR MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Moulton S. S., cash ... Moulton Church ... Mt. Pleasant per A. H. Stanley, \$1 paid by

Bro. Gargis	11 00
Bro. Gargis	7 50
Decatur	5 00
Decatur	10 00
	5 00
Pleasant Hill	5 00
Pleasant Hill	5 00
Bethel (M) F T Spain	1 00
Shoal Creek, paid by E. 1. Spanner	2 50
Hopewell Bethel (M). Shoal Creek, paid by E. T. Spain. Blue Spring. Mt. Nebo per W. B. Carter.	1 00
Mt. Nebo per W. B. Carter	1 00
ROCKY CICCA School	5 00
Hartsell Sulluay School	5 00
Somerville	2 50
Mt. Hope	10 00
Town Creek	5 00
Sheffield Tuscumbia	5 00
Tuscumbia. M. Finney.	5 00
M. Finney. G. W. Smith, paid	1 00
Isaac Bradford, paid	50
	1 00 25
J. R. Nesmith, paid Elkin Carter, paid	
Willie Speer, paid	25
Mrs. J. W. Wallace, paid J. W. Wallace, paid J. W. Horton	1 00
J. W. Wallace, paid	50
J. W. Horton	2 50
Mrs. Mattie McClain.	2 00
J. H. Routh per R. M. McClure Phil Lynch, paid	1 00
Mrs. McVey	1 00
Mrs. McVey Mrs. Mittie Wear	1 00
Jonathon Sandlin	5 00
W. B. Carter	5 00
W. J. Weaver	75
W. J. W. Chres	

Total cash and pledges for Min. Educat'n \$159 00

The report of the Board of Ministerial Education and the Treasurer's Report were adopted as follows:

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

YourBoard of Ministerial Education submit the following report of its work for the past associational year:

The Board has continued to aid Bro. W. T. Cobbs in securing an education. He remained at the Mountain View High School during the past he pursued his studies with commendable industry, and the Board is much satisfied with the progress he has made. The Board also assisted Bro. John Speer for four months during the last ression of the Mountain View High School.

School.

The total amount of cash received for Ministerial Education since our last report is \$99.04. We had on hand at the time of our last report, \$1.16 making \$100.20. We have paid out to Bro. Cobbe \$72.85 and \$4 for rent. We have paid to Bro. Speer \$23.35, making a total paid out of \$100.20, leaving nothing in the treasury. The total amount of cash and pledges for Ministerial Education at our last Association was \$193.05, of this amount \$26.05 was cash and \$167 pledges. Of these pledges only \$31.10 have been paid, leaving a balance unpaid of \$135.90. We are still due Bros. Cobbs and Soper \$23.50. We trust that these pledges will be paid at this Association and Soper \$23.50. and Speer \$33.80. We trust that these piedges will be paid at this Association. We learn that there are one or two worthy young brethren who desire to attend school, and would like the assistance of this Association. We urge the Association to raise money to aid them, The report of the Treasurer is appended to this report.

Respectfully submitted,

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Sec'y.

J. GUNN, President.

Ios. SHACKELFORD, Treas.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Jos. Shackelford, Treasurer in account with Ministerial Education Dr.	on Fund.
1886.	
Oct. 1. To amount on hand from last Report	. \$ 1 16
Oct. 1. To amount from Pinance Committee	
Oct. 1. J. D. Inman	
Oct. 1. To amount collected at Association.	
Oct. I. To amount from Pleasant Hill S. S.	
Oct. 1. To amount from S. W. Shackelford's children Oct. 1. To amount from Finance Committee	
Oct. 1. To amount from Moulton S. S. for C. G. Lynch	
Oct. 1. To amount from Hillsboro church	
Oct. 1. To amount from Shoal Creek church	
Oct. 1. To amount from Mt. Pleasant church per A. H. Stanley	. 5 00
Oct. 1. To amount from Town Creek church per R. T Wear	. 5 00
Oct. 1. To amount from R. Simpson and wife	. 5 00
Oct. 1. To amount from Bro. Weavers children	
Oct. 1. To amount from Sister Clay	. 1 00
	4100.00
	\$100 26
CR,	
By amount paid Bro. W. T. Cobbs	
By amount paid Bro. J. Speer 23 31	
By amount paid for rent 4 00	
70.1	
Total	
Respectfully submitted,	

DECEASED MINISTERS.

The Report of the Committee on Deceased Ministers was read by Bro. R. T. Wear, and adopted as follows: Your Committee on Deceased Ministers feel and to report the death of Brother Samuel M. Steenson, which occurred since our last Associational meeting. His long standing with us as one bold to declare the doctrines of the Bible, causes us to cherish the memory of his commendable christian virtues. It is also our mournful duty to record the departure of our Brother Wm. Hightower, who was long and favorably known as a useful minister among us, whose desires were always for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause. It is sad to see our standard bearers falling before the sickle of death, yet we are thankful to God, that he has spared so many of our efficient ministers. Shall we not pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into this harvest, to take the places of those that have fallen. We suggest that the business of the Association be suspended for a few minutes in memory of our deceased brethere.

Respectfully submitted,

R. T. WEAR.

In obedience to the suggestion of the Committee the Association suspended business for a time, and the hymn, "How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord" was sung.

After the hymn, the Association resumed business.

On motion, of Brother C. G. Lynch, a committee of three consisting of Bros. J. T. Wallace, J. R. Weaver and J. R. NeSmith, was appointed by the Moderator to nominate a Board of Ministerial Education.

TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance submitted their report, which was discussed by Bros. J. R. NeSmith, J. C. Orr, and Mat Lyon, which was adopt-

ed as follows :

Dear Brethren, we your committee on Temperance make the following report. Since our last meeting, many hard fought battles have been between the children of God, and the children of this world, and while we admit that we have not gained the victory on every field, we have in the majority of cases won decided victories. Our Temperance army is stronger to-day than it was. The children of light, are an army of volunteers, battling for the cause of Temperance. They are better organized, and contending with more zeal than ever before. Their faith is in Christ, they are determined to put intemperance away from the church, and out of the State and out of the Nation.

Respectfully submitted, I. R. NeSmith, Ch'n.

TRUSTEES OF THE BAPTIST MALE AND FEMALE INSTITUTE AT MOULTON.

The following brethren were appointed Trustees of the Baptist Male and Female Institute at Moulton: H. B. Irwin, T. W. Lynch, N. G. Dilleshaw, J. M. Clark, appointed for four years.

BOARD OF MINISPERIAL EDUCATION.

The committee appointed to nominate a Board of Ministerial Education, nominated the following brethren, which were approved by the Association: J. Gunn, Thomas W. Lynch, Wm. Irwin, Thomas Hutchinson, Jordan White, J. G. Orr, J. W. Hargrove.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

On motion the present Executive Board and Treasurer were elected for the ensuing year, as follows: O. D. Gibson, President; C. G. Lynch, Secretary; Thomas W. Lynch, Treasurer; W. D. McDaniel, L. W. Wear, P. J. Huchinson, Wm. Irwin, John B. Moore.

On motion, Bro. J. Gunn was added to the Board. Some remarks were made by Bros. O. D. Gibson, C. G. Lynch and Jos. Shackelford, concerning the work of the Board and the report of the Treasurer.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

Bro. H J Halbrooks read the report of the committee on documents, which was adopted as tollows: We, your committee on Documents submit the following. The letters from the churches show that a majority of churches have had additions by baptism, but there has been a decrease in Sabbath schools, and a small decrease in pledges from churches, and a large decrease in pledges from individuals; that four churches are not represented; that Tuscumbia church calls for material aid; that Mt Pisgah church in Morgan and Russelville church request the Association to hold H J HALBROOKS, T J WEAVER. J T WALLACE. its next session with them.

At this place the clerk would say, that on Saturday on an appeal for help from Tuscumbia church, the following amounts were paid and pledged. Others doubtless gave their names to Sister McClain, who was seeking aid for that church.

Jordan White paid\$	10	00 25	
Cash T N Jones		00	
	-		
Total\$	15	25	

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Moderator announced the following standing committees

who are to report next year. The chairman will see to it that reports are prepared.

Associational Mission-John. Speer, J. I. Stockton, R. T. Wear:

State Missions-Mat. Lyon, M. Finney, J. R. Nesmith. Foreign missions-W B. Uarter, W. T. Cobbs, H. A. McClel-

Education- C. G. Lynch, J. M. Thomas, W. F. Orr. Temperance-J. C. Orr, Dr Wm. Stanley, T. J. Weaver. Sunday School-Dabney Burleson, H. C. Gilbert, J. D. McClanahan.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Resolutions were adopted as follows:

By Bro. Mat. Lyon:

Whereas, The weekly newspaper is esteemed indispensable to human progress in this enlightened, active and reading age; and whereas, the same principles of practical, common sense apply to religious as well as worldly enterprises, therefore,

Resolved, 1. That we deem it indispensable to the most effective devel-

Account of Babtist principles, the true principles of the Gospel, that Baptist newspapers be well sustained, and widely read.

Resolved, 2. That we appreciate the peculiar importance of sustaining a Baptist newspaper published in our own state, for the special benefit of our own people; that we recognize the greatly improved condition of the Ala-bama Baptist" under the management of Brethren Shackelford and Hare, and Heartily commend the said paper to every Baptist; and that we specially urge our conviction that the advantages of its weekley visits should be secured without delay, by every Baptist family in this Association

By Bro. John Speer:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to the members of Town Creek Church and other citizens of this neighborhood. for the bountiful hospitality so cheerfully extended to the delegates, messengers and visitors here assembled.

On motion of Bro. J. C. Orr the Clerk was authorized to have 1200 copies of the minutes printed, and he was allowed \$20 for his services.

By Bro J. Speer:

Resolved, That we request Churches to insist upon the delegates whom they send to the Association, remaining with the body untill it is duly dismissed,

By Jos. Shackelford:

Resolved, That the Executive Board be instructed to authorize Treasurer to send all monies to the respective Boards, Foreign, Home, and State, which are so directed by the churches in their letters, and that the Board, is authorized to direct the amounts, which it may deem proper to be paid

the Foreign, Home and State Boards, giving the State Mission Board at least \$50 in addition to what has already been appropriated to that Board.

By W B Carter:

Resolved, That the Treasurer be authorized to settle with the missionaries for their past labor at his earliest convenience

By W B Carter:

Resolved, That the same instruction be given the Executive Board as last year, as regards their quarterly meetings with the Churches.

The Treasurer was authorized to pay over to the Clerk a sufficient amount of money to have the minutes printed.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee made their report as foilows: Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report: We have received from Churches and Individuals as follows:

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Churches,	Education.	Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	Minute Fund.
Enon. Mt. Pisgah	\$1 55 10 00		\$12 05	\$5 00		2 00
Bethel, M		10 00		45 00		1 25
						2 00
Macedonia, F		10 00				1 25
Falkville		4 00				1 00
Hillsboro	5 00	30 00	10 00			1 00
Gum Springs, M		5 00	10 00			1 00
Bethel, L		12 00				1 50
Tharp Springs						1 00
Hopewell Mt Pleasant Pleasant Hill Mt Hope	5 00	20 00				1 00
Mt Pleasant		41 00				2 00
Mt Uses	4 25	15 30				1 50
Tuscumbia						1 00
			3			1 50 50
Mt Nebo		10 00				
Russelville		82 75				
Okolona		4 35				50
Gum Springs. L		6 00				1 00
Harmony		5 00				50
Town Creek	9 00	30 00				.,,
Rocky Creek.		5 00 3 00				
Lebanon	1 00	2 25				1 00
Lebanon. Blue Spring Shoal Creek	2 50	2 20 .				1 00 1 50
Shoal Creek	2 00	3 00				1 00
martsell	10 001	80 00				2 00
Mt Zion, M		5 00] .			
Bethany		2 50 .].		50
Cherry Hill				-		1 00 -
						1 00
		5 00				25
Somerville.						• • • • •
Macedonia, M		5 00				75
Decatur		2 95 .				1 50
Moulton S. S.				2 50	2 50 .	
		9 20				
		1 00				
						• • • •
Mrs C H Simpson				***		
		1 00				

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE .-- (CONTINUED.)

CHURCHES.	Education.	Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Foreign Mission.	Home Missions,	Minutes Fund.
Miss Duncan Asa Rountree I O Burlson C B Carter Luke Cobbs R Wallace J W Wallace J W Wallace Mittle Wear Miss Annie Shackelforo Ella Orr Collection on Sunday		1 00 1 00				
Total from Churches and it Total Education Fund Total Associational Miss or Total Home Missions Total Minute Fund Total Foreign Missions. Total cash received Total Vouchers.	ndividuals		iay Sch	nools \$	555 8 62 8 424 8 2 8 34 4 7 8	20 30 35 50
By amount turned over to By amount turned over to		CR. r, cash , Vouche		\$	488 15	

The minutes were then read and approved.

There being no further business, the Association, after singing a parting hymn, and giving the parting hand, joined in prayer with Bio. O. D. Gibson. After prayer, the Moderator closed the body, adjourned to meet with Russelville church, on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1888.

J. Gunn, Moderator,

Jos. SHACKELFORD, Clerk.

Churches.	Pastors.	Post Offices.	Days of Meeting.	Baptized,
Tuscumbia	I M Thomas	Tuscumbia	Ev'ry Sah	-
Sheffield	M Thomas	Sheffield		
Russelville	R T Wear	Russelville	1-3rd	
でCherry Hill	I O A Pace	Newhurg.	2nd	1
Tharp Springs	M Finney	Tharp Springs	4th	
Macedonia, F	M Finney	Newburg	3rd	
Bethel	J R Nesmith	Avoca	lst	3
Mt Pleasant	John Speer	Brick	4st	
E Antioch		South Florence		
Mt Zion		Town Creek		e .
Mt Stanley	J Speer	Town Creek	2nd	
Okolona Bethany	J R Nesmith	Hatton	2nd	1.
Bethany	J M Roberts	Courtland	3rd	
Town Creek	RT Wear	Mt. Hope	2nd	
Mission Grove	J Spear	Courtland	2nd	
5 Salem	M Roberts	Moulton	- L lst	
Moutton	Matt Lyon	Moulton		
Harmony	M Roberts	Moulton	3rd	
New Hope	M Koperts	Courtland	2nd	
Hillsboro	Jos Snackenord	Hillsboro	1-3rd	
Mt Hope.	Www Spain	Mt Hope	4th	
Com Spring I	Win Spain	Courtlana	2nd	
Gum Spring, L Enon	W.T. Cobbs	Oalwille	4th	
Pleasant Hill	W T Cobbs	Cakvine	2nd	
Macedonia, M	I M Poborto	Elint	4th	
Decatur	W I Browning	December	Fully Sah	
Danville	WTCobbe	Danville	3rd	
Hopewell	I D McClanahan	Danville	1st	4
Hartsell	W B Carter	Hartcell	lst	
Hartsell	T I Weaver	Danville	3rd	
Lebanon	I D McClanahan	Falkville	3rd	
Lebanon	W B Carter	Flirt.	3rd	
Bethel, M Mt Zion, M	I I Stockton	Hartsell -	2nd	
Mt Zion, M	C A Owen.	Hartsell	2nd	
			1st	
Shoal Creek Somerville	H I Halbrooks	Hartsell.	4th	
- Somerville	T Weaver	Somerville		
Blue Springs	IT Weaver	Blue Springs	2nd	
Rocky Creek	. No letter	Lawrence's Cove.	l tot	1
Mt Nebo	. W B Carter	Cadar Plains	4th	
Etha	Not represented	Etha.	4th	
New Friendship Falkville		Somerville	2nd	
Falkville	. T J Weaver	Falkville	4th	-
Moulton		1		F .

"As per last report. Total number of churches 44. Total membership 3196. sepenses and building \$431.00. Total contributions \$1,204.25. The amount reported. Value of church property \$106.50. Net increase in membership.

	Restored.	Dismissed by Let-	Excluded.	Dead.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Ministerial Educa-	State Missions.	Associational Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Pastors Salary.	Minutes.	Sunday Schools.	Teachers and Pupils.	Church Expenses.	Value of Church Property.	S. S. Contributions.	Other Contribu-
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	1 1 1 3	1 3 2 2 3 3 7 7 6 6 5 1 7 7 1 1 5 5 1 0 5 5 3 3 3 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	3 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 1 1 1 1 1	5 2 4	46 22 19	79 35 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	47. 155 1 25 47 47 155 1 25 47 1 25 47 1 25 1 25 1 25 1 25 1 25 1 2 2 00 2 1 2 1 2 2 00 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1	7 50 7 50 10 00 1 55 4 25 5 00 1 0 00 1 0 00 2 50	10 00 22 00 12 00 12 00	10 00 12 00 41 00 41 00 41 00 00 12 00 00 10 1		5 00	150 00 100 00 125 00 100 00 213 25 60 00 100 00 35 00 20 00 50 00	\$ 1 50 1 00 1 00 1 00 1 00 1 25 1 50 50 50 50 2 50 1 00 2 00 1 50 50 1 50 50 1 50 1 50 1 50 1 50	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	21 34 48 45 49 78 32	\$ 40 00 6 00 50 00 25 00 20 00 25 00 20 00	\$ 1 200 00 500 00 400 00 500 00 800 00 800 00 800 00 500 00 800 00 500 00 200 00 400 00 400 00 400 00 200 00 400 00 200 00		
1					4	8	*25 *39 12			4 00		1.:		1 00				150 00		



THE ALARAMA BAPTIST

A PRODUCT OF THE REAL PROPERTY.

Baptist State Convention.

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